

REMARKS

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC 102/103

Claims 1-8, 11 and 17-20 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)/103(a) over U.S. Patent 4,220,579 to Rinehart, U.S. Patent 4,239,862 to Matthews or U.S. Patent 4,311,628 to Abdou-Sabet et al. Claims 1-8, 11-13 and 17-20 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)/103(a) over U.S. Patent 4,728,692 to Sezaki et al. or U.S. Patent 4,818,785 to Ottawa et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are requested.

The present invention as recited in claim 1 relates to a fully or partially crosslinked olefinic thermoplastic elastomer composition comprising 10 to 90 parts by weight of a crystalline polyolefin (a), 90 to 10 parts by weight of an olefin-based copolymer rubber (b) (the total amount of the components (a) and (b) being 100 parts by weight) and 3 to 100 parts by weight of a paraffinic mineral oil softening agent (c) having an evaporation loss of 0.4% by weight or less at a condition of 200 °C, atmospheric pressure and 1 hour and having a kinetic viscosity (40 °C) of 50 to 250 cSt.

Contrary to the position taken by the Examiner, the cited prior art references do not disclose or suggest a composition having the claimed properties. The invention uses paraffinic oil

having an evaporation loss of 0.4% or less. Thus, the invention is novel and non-obvious since the prior art uses commercially available paraffinic oils having an evaporation loss of more than 0.4%.

The paraffinic oils described in the references have a molecular weight of 530-550 and have properties which are similar to those of Sun Par 150, Super Oil M100 and a paraffinic oil (c-3) of Idemitsu Kosan Co. known by the Tradename PW-90. Thus, the commercially available paraffinic oils, such as Tufflo 6056 have an evaporation loss of more than 0.4%.

In order to support Applicants' position, the Examiner's attention is directed to the attached Rule 132 Declaration. Briefly, an olefinic thermoplastic elastomer composition was produced [molded] as in Example 6 of the present specification except a mineral oil softening agent Tufflo 6056 was used. The results are shown in Table 1 on page 2 of the Declaration. The Examiner should note that the claimed invention provides an olefinic thermoplastic elastomer composition having unexpectedly superior antifogging properties (e.g. low hazing property) by using paraffinic oil having an evaporation loss of 0.4% or less. This is nowhere disclosed or suggested in the prior art. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the prior art rejections are respectfully requested.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc S. Weiner (Reg. No. 32,181) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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Attachment(s)